

**AAASS Bibliography and Documentation Committee**  
**Report for 40th AAASS Annual Convention**  
**Philadelphia, PA**  
**November 20-23, 2008**

**Overview of the Committee:**

**Purpose.** The AAASS Bibliography & Documentation (B&D) Committee, consisting of scholars and librarians in the fields of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian studies, works throughout the year on a wide range of topics and ventures that include, but are not limited to: copyright, digital initiatives, microfilming projects, vendor issues, collection development, and the ABSEES online database [American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies]. These tasks are carried out by B & D subcommittees (Subcommittee on Copyright Issues, Subcommittee on Digital Projects, Slavic & East European Microfilm Project [SEEMP] Subcommittee, Subcommittee on Collection Development, and Subcommittee on ABSEES).

**Meetings.** The B&D Committee has two meetings annually, both at the AAASS national convention. The first is a working meeting for the B&D Committee members, but is generally open to any interested AAASS members. The second meeting is more informational in nature, and is attended by all librarians, archivists or other information specialists in the field.<sup>1</sup> Outside of the annual meetings, the B&D Committee members also communicate by e-mail and telephone throughout the year.

**Activity.** The B&D Committee oversees and supports the work of its various subcommittees, (occasionally directing work, or suggesting project proposals as needed) and is responsible for their membership. The B&D Chair facilitates the organization of the annual vendor presentation session at AAASS and the biennial Faculty Digital Resources Workshop (also at AAASS). S/he works with AAASS Convention organizers to ensure there are no conflicts in the scheduling of library-related events/panels or committee meetings and facilitates the suggestion and submission of topics for conference panels or roundtables on library topics for the AAASS Convention. Beginning in 2009, the Chair will also serve as an ex-officio member of the AAASS Board of Directors.

**Current B&D Membership:**

- Michael Brewer [Chair] — University of Arizona (2005-2010)
- Angela Cannon — Library of Congress (2008-2009)
- Janet Crayne — University of Michigan (2008-2010)
- Jared Ingersoll — Columbia University (2006-2008)
- Marcus Levitt [Faculty liaison] — University of Southern California (2008-2010)
- Nadia Zilper — University of North Carolina (2006-2008)

**New Information from the Committee:**

**B&D Committee Membership Changes.** Two members will be rotating off the B&D Committee in January. They will be replaced by Dan Pennell (University of Pittsburgh) and

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<sup>1</sup> There are over 100 AAASS members that identify themselves as librarians, archivists or information professionals of some kind.

Janice Pilch (University of Urbana-Champaign) with terms beginning in January 2009 and running through December 2011. Both Dan and Janice have been active members of AAASS, come from universities with significant Slavic collections, and will bring significant knowledge and expertise to the Committee.

**B&D Subcommittee Membership Changes.** The B&D Subcommittee on Digital Projects, the B&D Subcommittee on ABSEES, and the B&D Subcommittee on Copyright Issues will each have two vacancies beginning in January 2009. The remaining subcommittees have no vacancies this year. Larisa Walsh (Chicago) and Diana Green (NYU) will be the new members of the Subcommittee on ABSEES. For the Subcommittee on Digital Projects, Liladhar Pendse (UCLA) and Patricia Thurston (Yale) were approved as new members. Karen Rondestvedt (Stanford) and Janet Crayne (Michigan) will have their terms extended as members of the Subcommittee on Copyright Issues. The terms for these appointments will be for three years (2009-2011). With Andrew Spencer and Miranda Remnek are rotating off of their Co-Chair responsibilities for the Digital Projects Subcommittee and will be replaced by Ernest Zitser (Duke) and Patricia Thurston. Andrew and Miranda were instrumental in bringing this subcommittee into existence, and their leadership has made it what it is today. The Subcommittee on ABSEES will also have a new Chair, as Jon Giullian and Angela Cannon are rotating off as Co-Chairs. Heghine Hakobyan (Oregon) has agreed to chair that committee

#### **Recent Activities:**

***New B&D Website.*** In January, with the change of the B&D Chair, the B&D website was migrated from servers at UIUC to the University of Arizona. It was also reorganized and had a significant amount of content (both archival and current) added in order to better support the work of the B&D Chair, Subcommittee Chairs, and AAASS members. Much of this content was generated or suggested by the outgoing B&D Chair, Miranda Remnek. Michael Brewer created the site and serves as the webmaster. <http://intranet.library.arizona.edu/users/brewerm/bd/>

*Some additions to the site include:*

- Clear procedural guidelines for B&D and B&D Subcommittees
- A B&D Calendar, listing events and associated tasks required of the B&D Chair & Subcommittee Chairs
- Annual B&D Reports [new, beginning in 2008]
- An archive of past B&D Agendas and Minutes from AAASS Conventions
- Guidelines for Room Scheduling for the AAASS National Convention
- An archive of past B&D Subcommittee Reports
- A list of past B&D & Subcommittee Members and Chairs
- A list of Major Current and Past Projects
- A section for information on AAASS National Conventions, past and present (primarily listings of all library-related panels & events for each convention)
- Information on Past & Present Biennial Digital Resources Workshops

***Vendor Presentation Session at AAASS.*** Each year at AAASS, B&D organizes a venue for vendors of Slavic & East European books, databases and other information products and services to make presentations to Slavic librarians. Though numerous changes have been implemented in the past two years to improve the turn out, organization, and technical support available for this annual session, there was still room for improvement. At the session in 2007, the vendors and librarians were queried about how well the current approach was meeting their individual needs. Both the vendors and the librarians indicated the session was valuable and should continue, but

suggested allowing for both formal (presentation) and informal (one on one/small groups) elements. This year, Karen Rondestvedt reduced the amount of time available for vendors for formal presentations and established an informal “wine and cheese” social period following the formal presentations. It was deliberately scheduled for the last panel slot on Friday, to allow conversations to continue if participants wanted. Fourteen vendors presented. Nine vendors contributed to finance the refreshments, even including one who could not attend. Vendors who contributed financially were acknowledged on the handouts. Approximately 60 people attended the session. The new approach seems to have been a success and we hope to continue it next year. Nina Shapiro (Princeton) volunteered to organize the event in 2009 in Boston.

***AAASS Library Panels & Roundtable: Summary.*** A number of library-related panels and roundtables were proposed and took place at this year’s convention. Many of these were notable for their broader appeal to (and inclusion of) Slavic scholars, researchers and educators.

<http://intranet.library.arizona.edu/users/brewerm/bd/panels2008.html>.

- **Faculty Digital Resources Workshop** — This biennial workshop was well attended (at least 20 non-librarians packed a room with only 15 computers). A number of topics were covered by 8 presenters (see the B&D website for a complete overview). While all the sessions were successful, though rushed for time, the copyright sessions were especially informative and stimulated questions and discussions that continued well after the workshop ended. Another workshop will be planned for 2010 in Los Angeles.
- **New Literary Finds in American Collections: In Commemoration of the 225th Anniversary of V.A. Zhukovsky’s Birth** —
- **Creating East European and Eurasian Digital Repositories: Archiving for Preservation and Access** — Kevin Hawkins presented a discussion on the relationship between the needs for long-term digital preservation and the goal of technical innovation and the challenges this presents for producers of digital content. Hawkins warned that "distributing content through a publisher may provide more opportunities for innovation, but there is a risk that content will be lost, especially if there is on preservation arrangement, but possibly also if there is [a preservation arrangement]." T. Mills Kelly discussed the growth of Open Archiving and the development of social computing as it relates to developing and enhancing digital information recourses. Kelly specifically addressed the impact of self-submit methodologies for enhancing metadata of on-line information resources. One example that he discussed in detail is "Flickr". Miranda Remnek discussed the development of integrated geo-textual research corpora for Slavic and Central Eurasian digital repositories. She discussed in detail the "Islam and Eurasia: Bridging the Information Divide" project. Summary provided by George Andrew Spencer.
- **The Fate of Book Chambers and National Bibliographies in the Former Soviet Republics since 1991** — The papers discussed how the book chambers that were installed in each of the Soviet republics (mostly before the end of WWII) had changed after 1991. Their purpose before 1992 had been to preserve a copy of all publications within each Soviet republic and to use that copy for centralized cataloging and for compiling a national bibliography, but researchers were not allowed to use the book chamber collections. After 1991, the national libraries of some of the former Soviet republics have gladly absorbed the collections, staff, and responsibilities of the republic-level book chambers. In other countries, the book chambers have been strengthened by post-1991 legislation and are as active and independent as ever. Summary by Grant Harris
- **U.S. Sources/Russian Frames: Visual Culture, Architecture, and the Printed Text in Imperial and Soviet Russia** — This panel was balanced with librarians and art historical/historical writers. The panel was well attended and covered how a historian approaches paintings and the visual vs. an art historian; how NYPL led the way in reevaluating the importance of illustrated material held by libraries; the Digital Gallery at the NYPL; how there are visual materials hidden not just in libraries but in museums. A lively discussion ensued. Perhaps the most important insight to come out of the panel was the need for collaboration in the field of visual studies and an awareness and recognition of the different methodologies used when

- approaching visual materials. The necessity to get out of the “silo” mentality: art historians need the help and expertise of historians; literary and historical expertise is not a substitute for art historical or visual training and the two worlds need to meet, not create two canons. Summary provided by Kristen Regina
- **Recovering, Rediscovering and Reconstructing the East European Graphic Avant-Gardes** — Prof. Steven Mansbach based his overview of graphic avant-gardes in Eastern Europe on the exhibition that he and Wojciech Siemaszkiewicz (NYPL) curated at the New York Public Library several months ago. The exhibition *Graphic Modernism from the Baltic to the Balkans 1910-1935* was held on October 5, 2007-January 27, 2008. Prof. Jindrich Toman spoke about use of photographs in books published during those years in Europe. He excluded use of photomontages from his presentation. Nancy Perloff of the Getty Research Institute and Michael Weintraub, book dealer of the avant-garde books commented on both presentations. Ms. Perloff has just curated an exhibition *Tango with Cows: Book Art of the Avant-Garde, 1910-1917* about Russian futurist books that opened at the Getty. A spontaneous discussion developed among all participants, especially in respect to use of illustrative or photographic material in avant-garde books of that time. Janis Kreslins would not travel to the conference. About 30 people attended this panel.
  - **Hidden Library Treasures** — Several speakers were unable to attend. As a result, Nicolae Harsanyi of the Wolfsonian (Florida International University), who chaired the panel also spoke about the rare book and ephemera collections at the Wolfsonian. Janet Zmorczek spoke about Polish collections at the British Library and the way they inform our understanding of the life of Polish exiles in Britain in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Christina Peter drew attention to the little-known collection of Slavic and East European art periodicals and exhibition catalogs at the Frick Art Reference Library. Summary by Christina Peter
  - **The Diplomatic Role Played by Grand Duke Alexis in Russian-American Relations and Library Culture** — This was a roundtable at which the chair provided background, and two professors and a librarian presented. Alexis was the son of Alexander II of Russia, who paid a visit to the US in 1872 and travelled throughout the country, collecting information, exchanging presents, and steeping himself in American culture. He also donated large numbers of books to American libraries, including University of Michigan Library. Although a goodwill trip that was at times sensationalistic, it laid the groundwork for later collaboration with the US as its supplier of maritime vessels. His gifts to libraries served as resources on Russian history, government, and intellectual life. Summary by Janet Crayne
  - **Taking the Pulse: Baltica in the United States: State of Curatorship** — Representatives of several institutions working with the archival collections of Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian émigré groups in the United States participated in this roundtable and presented the state of curatorship in their institutions. Enda-Mai Michelson-Holland, Director, Estonian Archives in the US, Inc. (EAUS) in Lakewood, NJ spoke about Estonian archives in the USA and work with Estonian authorities in preserving these resources. She recommended the following Internet sites to access their resources: [www.balthert.net](http://www.balthert.net); [www.ihrc.umn.edu/research/vitrage](http://www.ihrc.umn.edu/research/vitrage). Dale Terese Lukas, Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. and Lithuanian Research and Studies Center (LRSC) in Chicago spoke about the organization of the LRSC and its collections. Vida Margaitis spoke about her work with the collections of the American Lithuanian Cultural Archives (ALKA) in Putnam, Connecticut. Janis Kreslins could not attend but sent in his remarks which were read at the conference. He reviewed the general state of Baltic collections in the United States. He commented on the reorganization of the NYPL Baltic collections. Michael Biggins provided an overview of the US research in Baltic studies and its resources in recent years. Several participants engaged the presenters with questions related to technical processing of such resources in their institutions and emphasized that they were unaware of many of these collections.
  - **Treasures Hidden in Plain Sight: The Challenge of Providing Access to Uncataloged, Underprocessed or Little Known Archival and Book Collections** — The round table was organized by June Pachuta Farris, Bibliographer for Slavic, E. European & Central Eurasian Studies, University of Chicago and chaired by Allan Urbanic, Librarian for Slavic & East European Collections, University of California Berkeley. June Farris spoke about the Archives of Czechs and Slovaks Abroad at her library. Ksenya Kiebuszinski, Head, Petro Jacyk Central and East European Resource Centre, Robarts Library, University of Toronto spoke about collections relating to Ukrainian Immigrants in North America (1890-1950) at the Libraries of Harvard

University and the University of Toronto. Lukas Babka, Director of the Slavonic Library, National Library of the Czech Republic told the story of the Russian Foreign Historical Archives Collection in the Prague Slavonic Library. Vladimir Alexey von Tsurikov, Director of Archives and Library Services, Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary (Jordanville, New York) spoke about the Preservation of Rare Collections in the Holy Trinity Seminary Archives. Finally Jean Dickinson, Slavic Cataloging Librarian, University of California Berkeley Library presented a paper entitled "Women's Writing and the Feminine Voice in 19th and 20th Century Russia: Berkeley's Russian Women Writers Collection"

- **Treasures for Tractors: The Selling of Russia's Cultural Heritage, 1920-1930s** — The speakers on this devoted themselves to detailed subjects in the larger context of the selling of Russia's books and art, ostensibly to finance industrialization in the First Five Year Plan. Elena Osokina talked about Sir Joseph Duveen and his lack of success in buying pictures from the State Hermitage, paintings that were eventually bought by Andrew Mellon. Wendy Salmond focused on the sale of liturgical textiles as fabric for use as designer fabrics most often quite unsuited to their uses abroad for making handbags, picture frames, and throws over pianos. Patricia Grimsted commented on the accusations of librarians in St. Petersburg that the Nazis had stolen books from the imperial palaces that had in fact been sold in the interwar period. All of the participants on this panel have contributed chapters to the 2009 journal of *Canadian-American Cultural Studies* 2009 (four volumes in one) with topics on similar subjects, a volume to be published as a book by Hillwood Museum in early 2009.
- **Teaching Information Literacy in Slavic Studies** — On this panel, presenters were told in advance they would only have 15 minutes to summarize their papers, in order to leave a good deal of time for discussion. The discussion was significant and far ranging, moving quickly from the topic of Slavic information literacy per se to where Slavic Studies in the U.S. was heading in the post-Soviet world and how libraries were addressing those changes (with institutional reorganizations, with changes in personnel, etc.). Calls were made to organize a panel on this topic in 2009.

**Fourth Biennial Faculty Digital Resources Workshop.** Begun in 2001, this (usually) biennial workshop has focused on providing scholars and researchers (especially those from smaller institutions with limited resources) with a chance to learn more about the latest digital resources and interact with and ask questions of experienced Slavic studies librarians. For more information see: <http://intranet.library.arizona.edu/users/brewerm/bd/preconference2008.html>, or read the summary provided in the summaries of AAASS panels and events.

**Scholarly Communication.** The B&D Committee, as well as members of the Subcommittee on Digital Projects, the Subcommittee on Copyright Issues and others have had continuing discussions this year on how best to encourage and support publishing models in our field that are sustainable and best serve the interests of the field. While these conversations are ongoing, we have agreed that, as librarians, we feel a responsibility to seek out opportunities for actively informing the larger Slavic studies community about the crisis in scholarly publishing and the various alternatives that libraries and library consortia across the country have created to mitigate against this crisis. A task force was created to further discuss these issues and provide advice to editors or others about open access or other publishing models. The task force will report to B&D prior to the national convention in 2009. Members: Michael Brewer (Chair, B&D), Ernest Zitser (Co-Chair, Digital Projects Subcommittee), Angela Cannon (B&D Member) & Kevin Hawkins (Copyright Issues Subcommittee Member).

**Name Change.** Prior to learning of AAASS's intention to change its name, the AAASS Slavic librarian community decided to look into changing the name of the Bibliography & Documentation Committee. The thinking behind this was twofold.

1. First of all, there was a feeling that this name no longer adequately represented the work of the committee or its subcommittees.
2. Secondly, it was clear that in the broader community of librarians, B&D by itself did not indicate our subject discipline, and AAASS B&D was not workable as a name or acronym.

The majority felt that we needed a name that was more descriptive of our work and which would also be meaningful to the library community outside of AAASS. We also discussed the possibility that the full acronym would only be used outside of AAASS (to avoid redundancy), and that the short form would be our “official” AAASS name. After a great deal of discussion and a number of surveys, we came up with the following 4 options (listed in order of preference, based on the surveys conducted).

- SEEECLIR [pronounced “see clear”] - Slavic, East European & Eurasian Committee on Libraries & Information Resources; Short form - Committee on Libraries & Information Resources
- SEEELC [pronounced “seals”] - Slavic, East European & Eurasian Librarians Council; Short form - Librarians Council
- COSEEEIR [pronounced “co-seer”] – Committee on Slavic, East European & Eurasian Information Resources; Short form - Committee on Information Resources
- SEEECIR [pronounced “seeker”] - Slavic, East European & Eurasian Committee on Information Resources; Short form - Committee on Information Resources

Once we learned that AAASS was also contemplating a name change, we decided to delay our deliberations and resume them later, if we felt it was necessary. As the decision by AAASS to change its name to the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies [ASEEES] would not seem to resolve the former issues, the membership decided to revisit the possibility of a B&D name change. However, no formal changes will be considered without first consulting with the Executive Director of AAASS.

***Subcommittee Reports.*** Current (and past) subcommittee reports are available online at: <http://intranet.library.arizona.edu/users/brewerm/bd/subcommittees.html>

Submitted by:

Michael Brewer, Chair  
AAASS Bibliography and Documentation Committee  
January 5, 2009